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WHICKHAM
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR,

MR. GEO. E. HOPPER,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER, 1925.

SWALWELL,

A. A. FLETCHER & SON, GENERAL PRINTERS, MARKET LANE,
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ANNUAL REPORT.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
WHICKHAM-ON-TYNE.

JULY 26th, 1926.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1925.

The Report this time must be more comprehensive so as to comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) 6030.

Population 20,580.

Number of inhabited houses 4260.

Number of families or separate occupiers 4356.

Rateable Value £111,389.

Sum represented by a penny rate £400.

The District is divided into four Wards, namely:—

Dunston, Swalwell, Whickham and Marley Hill.

The largest Ward is DUNSTON which takes in about half the population.

It is essentially urban, its population is concentrated, and it is largely industrial.

The Industries embrace Colliery, Engineering, extensive Flour Mills, Soap Works, and of late years has become a considerable Shipping and Coal exporting Centre.



SWALWELL is also concentrated, it is also industrial, and to a large extent Colliery. Its population is about one-fifth of the whole District.

WHICKHAM is of a more scattered character, and is essentially rural. It is partly industrial, and is becoming more and more a Colliery centre. It is also residential. Its population is about one-sixth of the whole area.

MARLEY HILL is also a scattered area, and is wholly Colliery. There is no great concentration of population here. It is of rather rural character, and its population is about one-tenth of the whole.

POPULATION.

The estimated population for 1925 is 20,580 which is an increase on the previous year of 320.

The excess of births over deaths is 195.

The total number of births is 454. Males 218. Females 236. This is a decrease of 50 on the previous year. There were 17 illegitimate births.

The birth rate for the year is 22.06, as against 24.82 for 1924, a decrease of 2.76, and a decrease of 6.14 per thousand per annum of that of 10 years ago.

It is higher than the birth rate of England and Wales by 3.76 per thousand.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths from all causes is 259. Males 125. Females 134.

This gives a death rate of 12.58 per thousand as against 10.56 for 1924, this being an increase over 1924 of 2.02, and an increase over that of 10 years ago of 1.44.

The death rate of England and Wales is 12.2.

We exceed this rate by .38, and for the smaller towns we are in excess by 1.18 per thousand.

Infantile Mortality.

The deaths under one year numbered 57, which is a rate of 125.55 per thousand of children born. It is an increase by 54.13 over that of 1924, and is an increase of .55 over that of ten years ago.

The Infantile Mortality of England and Wales is 92.1 per thousand births which we exceed by 34.45.

Zymotic Death Rate.

There were 28 deaths from Zymotic Diseases, namely:—

Diarrhoea	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	15
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	9
Diphtheria	...	...	1
			<hr/>
			28

this gives a zymotic death rate of 1.36 which is an increase of .97 over last year's figures.

There were 6 deaths from Influenza during the year.

Tuberculosis.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis was the cause of 31 deaths, and other respiratory diseases caused 27 deaths.

Deaths from all forms of Tubercule numbered 37 which gives a death rate of 1.79.

Cancer.

Cancer caused 15 deaths, against 20 for the previous year, and 15 for 1923.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WHICKHAM URBAN DISTRICT, DURING THE YEAR 1925.

(CIVILIANS ONLY)

CAUSES OF DEATH					MALES	FEMALES
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	125	134
1 Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...
2 Small pox	...	...	...	...
3 Measles	...	...	...	...	5	10
4 Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...		1
5 Whooping Cough...	...	...	...	...	3	6
6 Diphtheria	...	...	...	...		1
7 Influenza	...	...	...	...	3	3
8 Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...
9 Meningococcal Meningitis...	...	...	...	...
10 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	15	16
11 Other Tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	2	4
12 Cancer malignant diseases	...	...	...	...	6	9
13 Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	1	1
14 Diabetes	...	...	...	...	3	
15 Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	...	13	7
16 Heart disease	...	...	...	...	8	13
17 Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	9	6
18 Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	8	5
19 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	5	6
20 Other Respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	2	1
21 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	2	
22 Diarrhœa etc (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	2	
23 Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...		1
24 Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	1	
25 Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	3	3
26 Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...
27 Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy	...	...	...	...
28 and parturition	...	...	...	...		1
29 Congenital debility, malformation and prem- ature birth	...	...	...	...	8	15
30 Suicide	...	...	...	...		1
31 Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	9	5
32 Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	15	19
33 Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	2	
Special Causes (included above)						
Poliomyelitis						
Polioencephalitis						
Deaths of infants under one year of age	{ Total ... Illegitimate				22	35 2
TOTAL BIRTHS	...	...	...	...	218	236
Legitimate...	...	...	...	...	212	225
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	6	11
POPULATION—					20580	

POOR LAW RELIEF, ETC.

Out door relief is granted by the Guardians on a liberal scale, ranging from 23/- per week for man and wife, to 35/- per week for man, wife and six children.

Free medical advice and treatment may be obtained for neccessitous cases through the Poor Law Medical Officer where institutional treatment is not required.

More serious cases will be admitted free as indoor patients at the Gateshead Union Hospital, in addition the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne is always available.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

During the period under review there have been no officially noteworthy causes of sickness in the District until we come to the year 1925, when 25 cases of Smallpox were notified.

The disease was mild in nature, and no deaths were recorded.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDIZED BY THE LOCAL
AUTHORITY OR BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

(1) Tuberculosis.

All arrangements for Sanatorium Treatment are in the hands of the Durham County Council.

(2) **Maternity.**

There is no local Hospital accommodation, but patients are freely admitted to the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne, or to the Gateshead Union Hospital, High Teams.

(3) **Children.**

There is no Hospital for children in this District, but amply facilities are provided at Newcastle-on-Tyne, and at Gateshead.

(4) **Fever.**

Hospital accommodation is provided by the Local Authority for cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, etc., at Norman's Riding. This Hospital is outside of this Council's area, and is worked conjointly by the Blaydon, Ryton and Whickham Urban District Councils.

(5) **Small-pox.**

Cases of small-pox are dealt with at Sealburns Hospital, near Ryton. This Hospital is also conjoint with the Blaydon and Ryton Councils.

(6) **Other.**

There are no Hospitals situated in this area supported or subsidised by this Council, but the Whickham War Memorial Cottage Hospital, (supported by voluntary contributions,) with accommodation for 22 patients is situated in the heart of the District.

Institutional Provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children, apart from that

provided by the Gateshead Board of Guardians, at High Teams, through the relieving officer.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) FOR INEECTIOUS CASES.

A separate motor ambulance is available at any hour for the removal of cases to hospital. The vehicle is new, thoroughly up-to-date, fully equipped, and reliable.

(b) FOR NON-INFECTIOUS AND ACCIDENT CASES.

There is a public motor ambulance for these cases. It is the property jointly of the Urban District Council and the St. John's Ambulance Nursing Division of Dunston.

It is kept at a garage in Dunston, and is always available for any part of the District.

It was a gift from the St. John's Association through the County Director, Lt. Col. Palmer.

Many of the collieries and other firms also have motor ambulances of their own for their respective workmen; and, in addition, the Whickham members of the St. John's Ambulance Association are always ready to convey, by hand ambulance, cases of injury or illness to and from the Cottage Hospital within short distances.

This has been found to be of great value.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are held on alternate weeks at Whickham, Swalwell and Dunston respectively.

The Centres are well attended, and, in addition, are also Anti-natal Clinics.

The children are all carefully examined, and the mothers receive individual advice from Doctor Madge Hopper who has charge of the Centres.

The attention of the District Nurse is drawn to those who require assistance by domiciliary visits in their respective areas.

In addition, a number of voluntary lady helpers attend and give instruction and help in the making of garments of the most suitable character.

Day Nurseries.

There are none in this District.

School Clinics.

The hoped for Centre for School Clinics with a Dental Department has not yet matured in this District. Cases may be dealt with at the Dental Clinic at Chester-le-Street.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

A Tuberculosis Clinic is held weekly at properly equipped premises adjoining the Cottage Hospital, Whickham. This Clinic is under the Durham County Council; and, at which, patients from this District and the surrounding Districts are treated.

Treatment Centres for Venereal Diseases.

Venereal Diseases are treated at Clinics by arrangement with the Durham County Council.

The most convenient for this District is the Clinic at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

F. T. Foster, M.D., Medical Officer of Health. Part time.

Ed. Smith, M.B., Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

Madge Hopper, M.B.D.P.H.B.H.Y. (Medical Officer of
Maternity and Child Welfare Centres) Part time.

Geo. E. Hopper, Sanitary Inspector,
(Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute) Whole time.

J. F. Jameson, Assistant Sanitary Inspector,
(Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute) Part time.

Nurse Robinson, Nurse and Health Visitor ... Swalwell.

Nurse Finlay, Nurse and Health Visitor ... Marley Hill.

Nurse Phillips, Health Visitor, ... Dunston.

Nurse Maugham, District Nurse ... Dunston.

These are fully certified Nurses.

Midwife Thompson, Dunston.

Midwife Henderson, Swalwell.

The half of the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector are recoverable through exchequer grants.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) GENERAL. This is arranged for by the Whickham and District Nursing Association, which is affiliated with the County of Durham Nursing Association. It is a voluntary organisation, supported entirely by voluntary subscriptions, so far as ordinary district nursing is concerned. It also undertakes to arrange for health visiting on behalf of the County Council and the Urban District Council, for which it receives payment from these Councils. As the Whickham Urban District Council is also itself responsible for the Maternity and Child Welfare work, it appoints and pays the Midwives through this district Nursing Association.

Through affiliation with the County Nursing Association we secure supervision and inspection of the Nurses and Health Visitors by the County Superintendent Nurse and Health Visitor, and of the Midwives by the County Superintendent of Midwives.

At Dunston there is a full time nurse for district nursing, and a full time health visitor; and for Whickham and Swalwell combined, and for the Marley Hill area, there is one nurse each who combines the duties.

The work of the nurses is of the utmost value, efficient home nursing is secured for practically all the industrial population, and the patients who come under the Poor Law Guardians are included. They are at all times at the service of all the doctors practising in the area, to whom they give help which is invaluable.

As health visitors their work is equally valuable, they constitute an excellent educative force.

They attend each Maternity and Child Welfare Centre held in their respective district, and they give domiciliary attendance on all babies shortly after birth, and afterwards as often as may be necessary, instructing mothers in all matters concerning the feeding and healthy up-bringing of children, and encouraging them to bring them to the Centre periodically.

They also give domiciliary attendance on school children referred to them by the School Medical Officers, and on cases of Tuberculosis, similarly referred by the Tuberculosis Medical Officers.

(b) FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES, E.G. MEASLES, ETC. There is no provision of home nursing for such cases as Scarlet fever, Typhoid fever, Diphtheria, etc., because these are sent to the

Isolation Hospital as soon as possible, except when an emergency tracheotomy is required, when one of the district nurses may be engaged until the case is transferred to Hospital.

The nurses are however available for the complicated cases of Measles, Whooping Cough, Influenza, etc., and the doctors are advised and encouraged to ask for their assistance whenever required. This has been attended with excellent results. At the same time we have in reserve for overwhelming epidemics of this character a number of St. John's Ambulance nurses who often give most valuable assistance with genuine skill.

MIDWIVES.

There are three fully trained certified Midwives in the District.

Two of them, one in Swalwell and one in Dunston, are financed by the District Council. The other one at Marley Hill is acting independent.

In addition there is a Midwife at Dunston authorised to practice Midwifery by virtue of being in practice before the last Act was passed.

These midwives are supervised, and inspected by the County Superintendent of Midwives.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

The following is a list of Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws, and Local Regulations relating to the public health in force in the district, with date of adoption.

Name of Act.	Year of Adoption.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890	... 1897
Notification of Births Act, 1907	... 1909
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Parts II, III, IV, V, and X.	... 1909

Bye-laws and Regulations are in force in this District in the following matters:—

		Came into operation.
Dairies, Cow-sheds, and Milkshops	...	5th March, 1896
Management of Sanitary Conveniences,		13th August, 1902
	Allowed by the Local Government Board.	
New Street and Buildings	...	29th August, 1903.
Removal of Offensive Matters	...	do.
Slaughter Houses	...	do.
Offensive Trades	...	do.
Common Lodging Houses	...	do.
Users of Sanitary Conveniences	...	do.
Nuisances	...	24th September, 1903.
Houses Let in Lodgings	...	do.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The water supply throughout the whole of the Area is of a satisfactory nature, and is a constant supply.

Dunston, Swalwell and Whickham are supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company.

Marley Hill is supplied by the Durham County Water Board.

The supplies are pure, and no complaints have been received.

The estimated number of houses supplied by the Durham Water Board at Marley Hill is 426; and those supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company at Whickham, Dunston and Swalwell are estimated at 3834.

Rivers and Streams.

The only item calling for comment in this District is the river Team. This stream runs alongside of a number of works which are situated both inside and outside of this Council's Area.

Some time ago tar effluent was noticable coming from the Team By-Product Works.

On representation being made to the Management an efficient filtering plant was laid down at considerable expense; and which, with ordinary attention, has been found to work very satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the past five years the whole of the supervision of house drainage has been taken over by the Health Department, and the work is carried out on similar lines to those operating in the City of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

All drains are intercepted from the sewer by a suitable trap which is fixed as near the boundary of the premises as possible. The general rule is to use pipes of 4" diameter throughout each system, and before any drain is approved a water test is applied. If found satisfactory by this test, the drain is then bedded in concrete and filled in.

To ensure there is no obstruction left in the interior of the joints or pipes a solid rubber ball is run down the length of the drain.

For the testing of old or suspected defective systems of drainage, a smoke test is applied with a smoke machine.

The ultimate disposal of the sewerage of the District is into the River Tyne.

There are six sewer outfalls into the River Team at Dunston, and one into the River Derwent at Swalwell. These two rivers are tributaries of the River Tyne. In addition to these, five sewer outfalls discharge directly into the River Tyne.

The sewage from the Marley Hill District and from a portion of the Whickham District is forced over the higher ground levels by a series of Shone Ejectors.

In connection with these Ejectors two air compressor plants are installed; one of these is at Marley Hill Chemical Works, and the other at the rear of the Council Offices, Whickham.

Closet Accommodation.

The prevailing type of sanitary convenience in this District is the ash closet. This type of convenience has no doubt arisen owing to the fact that the majority of the population are employed in the mining industry and get their coals allowed.

This liberal allowance of coals naturally leaves a large amount of ashes to be disposed of; and the ash closet, as we know it, in this part of the County of Durham, provides a ready means for the disposal of the ashes.

On the other hand a fair number of owners and owner-occupiers are steadily having these conveniences converted into water closets, and properly covered galvanized receptacles provided for dry house refuse.

The following table shows the rate of progress which is being made:--

Year.	Ashpits Abolished.	Ash Closets Abolished.	Water Closets Provided.
1921	1	8	10
1922	...	7	27
1923	...	13	23
1924	...	13	24
1925	...	9	21

The total number of water closets in the District is 895.

The total number of ash closets in the District is 2086.

Scavenging.

The scavenging of the District is carried out by the Surveyor's Department. The ash closets in the congested areas are emptied twice a week, and in the remainder of the District they are emptied once a week. The same arrangements apply to the emptying of ash bins.

The refuse is carted in covered carts to one or other of the Council Refuse Tips.

Very few complaints are received with regard to the working of the above arrangements.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1925.

County of Durham.

SUMMARY of Work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the year 1925 in the URBAN DISTRICT of WHICKHAM.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.				Number of Informal written notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice	General Remarks
Dwelling-houses and Schools.	{ Foul Conditions Structural Defects Overcrowding ...			223 1	115 —	17 —	206 notices re ash-closets ordered to lie in abeyance. Case adjourned by order of Council.
Lodging-houses	...	...	...	5		5	
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	40		40	re bi-annual limewashing
Cowsheds	...	...	...	3		3	
Bakehouses	...	...	...	16		16	re bi-annual limewashing
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	...	2		2	
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	...	...	12		12	
Waterclosets...	...	...	...	2		2	
Defective Yard Paving	...	...	...	2		2	
House	{ Defective Traps			1		1	
Drainage	{ No Disconnection from sewers			25		25	
	{ Other Faults			9		9	
Water Supply	...	...	...	6		5	
Pigsties	...	...	...	4		4	
Animals Improperly Kept	...	...	...	
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	3		3	
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	59	2	60	
Under H.T.P. etc. Act, 1919, sec. 28							
Drains tested with smoke	...	10					
Defective drain removed (yards)	215						
New drains laid (yards)	361						
Drains tested with water	86						
Anti-bell traps fixed	34						
(These figures are exclusive of work on new buildings)							
TOTALS ...				411	117	204	

Visits to ascertain if notices served have been
 complied with, etc, in addition to other work
 reported ... 1086.

Inspector's Report continued:-

	Number	Remarks.
II. WATER, FOOD AND DRUGS		
Samples of Water taken for analysis	—	carcase of cow condemned as unfit for food.
„ „ condemned as unfit for use ...	—	
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...	1	
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food ...	—	
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis ...	—	
„ „ found Adulterated ...	—	
III. PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE		
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	153	1 bed and 2 mattresses destroyed by fire.
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	153	
Schools do. do.	3	
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things	—	
Convictions for do. do do.	—	
IV. GENERAL.		
Number of New Houses erected during the year ...	157	115 of these are in connection with a Colliery Housing Scheme.
Number of such Houses occupied during the year	132	
Ash-pit privies converted into Ash-closets ...	—	20 water closets have been provided to existing houses during the year.
do. do. Water-closets	—	
Ash-closets do. do. ...	9	
Total number of Water-closets in District ...	895	
do. Ash-closets do	2086	
do. Ashpit-privies do	—	

February 22nd, 1926.

GEORGE ERNEST HOPPER,
Sanitary Inspector.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No complaints have been received regarding any smoke nuisances in the District during the period under review.

No local readings of atmospheric impurities are taken.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

Houses let in Lodgings.
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops.
Bakehouses,
Offensive Trades.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

There are none in the District.

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES, MILKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES.

These are kept under as close supervision as possible.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The following are the Offensive Trades in the District:-
Co-operative Wholesale Society Soap Works, Dunston.

FISH FRIERS.

There are eleven in the District of which
7 are in Dunston.
3 are in Swalwell.
1 is in Whickham.

They are kept under close supervision and are well conducted.

RAG AND BONE DEALERS.

There are two in the District, both are in Dunston, and are also kept under close supervision.

With reference to underground sleeping rooms Sec. 18 (1) Housing Act, 1925, three tenement rooms in Swalwell were dealt with during the period under review.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools in this District are situated in light open spaces, and are well supervised.

They are provided with a constant supply of pure water, and any matters requiring attention are promptly attended to on communicating with the District Clerk of the Durham Education Authority.

HOUSING.

(1) General Housing Conditions in the Area.

Despite the fact that numbers of houses have been erected in various parts of the District, the shortage of houses still remains acute.

EXTENT OF SHORTAGE, OR EXCESS OF HOUSES.

(a) The estimated shortage of houses throughout the District is 606.

MEASURES TAKEN OR CONTEMPLATED TO MEET ANY SHORTAGE

(b) The Local Authority are at present engaged in a scheme of building 194 houses in different parts of the District, and a further enlargement of the scheme is being contemplated.

The only noteworthy change in the population in this District has been in the Whickham Ward owing to the provision of 150 houses which have been built as part of a Colliery Housing Scheme.

A fair proportion of the occupiers of these houses have been imported into the District. We have reason to hope that

private enterprise will, in the near future, help to relieve our Housing difficulties.

(2) Overcrowding.

(1) EXTENT.

The overcrowding in the District is general, and the areas can be better dealt with in wards, as follows:—

DUNSTON.

In Dunston we have first what is left of the old village comprising properties which formerly were occupied by one family, but are now occupied by two and sometimes three families.

The same state of affairs applies to most of the flat properties on the north east side of the Railway which practically divides Dunston into two parts.

On the south side of the railway overcrowding does not exist to any notable extent.

SWALWELL.

Swalwell generally is overcrowded, whilst the numbers of families living in one house may not be large, we still have the deplorable fact of two or more families living in one house.

This statement applies to Council houses equally as much as to houses privately owned.

WHICKHAM.

Apart from a small amount of overcrowding in the Pit Rows, this portion of the District is satisfactory.

MARLEY HILL.

Here again—as in Swalwell—we have the deplorable fact of gross overcrowding mostly in the houses owned by the District Council.

Two families in one house seems to be the general rule.

(2) CAUSES.

Acute shortage of houses.

Depression in trade, causing the inability of many tenants to pay the high rents and rates prevalent in the District.

(3) MEASURES TAKEN OR CONTEMPLATED FOR DEALING WITH OVERCROWDING.

The District Council have Housing schemes in progress at Dunston and further schemes are contemplated for Whickham and Swalwell. In addition to these, two local Colliery Companies have each a scheme for the erection of more houses for their work people, but these are naturally held up for the present owing to the depression in the coal trade.

(4) PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF OVERCROWDING DURING THE YEAR 1925.

Overcrowding during the year under review having been so general, it has been impossible to deal with cases according to our usual methods.

One cannot differentiate between any of the cases. On the one hand owners have been approached in certain cases whereby arrangements have been made for exchanges of tenancies in such cases as where a large family occupied a small house, and vice-versa.

(3) Fitness of Houses.

(a) The general standard of houses still remains much the same as in the previous reports of my predecessor.

Owing to the continued shortage of new houses little can be done with the older properties in the District. This fact, combined with continued trade depression has made the task of dealing with unfit houses most difficult. The same difficulty

has been experienced in maintaining anything like a standard of fitness so as to keep houses reasonably fit for human habitation in properties which are not on the border of condemnation.

(b) GENERAL CHARACTER OF DEFECTS FOUND TO EXIST IN UNFIT HOUSES.

Want of proper light, air, and through ventilation. General dilapidations in external and internal walls, floor, and roof. Absence of proper drainage and water supply, dampness, etc.

(c) HOW FAR DEFECTS ARE DUE TO THE LACK OF PROPER MANAGEMENT, OR TO ACTS OF NEGLIGENCE BY TENANTS.

The main causes of owners or their Agents allowing defects in houses to continue are as follows:—

(1) Neglect or reticence of tenants in pointing out defects.

(2) Owners being inclined to put off doing repairs whilst the rents are in arrears.

(3) In many cases where the tenants have made complaints to the owner, the latter through lack of means, etc., has been unable to get work, and so puts off from time to time.

Trade depression is causing many of the tenants to be unable to meet their rents and rates.

The wilfully or destructive tenant is seldom met with.

GENERAL ACTION TAKEN AS REGARDS UNFIT HOUSES UNDER:—

(a) The Public Health Acts.

(b) The Housing Acts.

(a) The Acts are used for ordinary nuisances, the provision of sanitary conveniences, the provision of proper drainage to houses, etc.

The total number of informal notices dealt with under the above Acts for the year 1925 was 274, of which, at a later date, 206 of these notices were at the Council's instructions ordered to lie in abeyance.

(b) The general inspections of houses throughout the District are made under the Housing Acts.

(3) DIFFICULTIES FOUND IN REMEDYING UNFITNESS IN HOUSES.

One of the chief difficulties met with in having defects remedied in unfit houses is the fact that a large proportion of tenanted houses are managed by agents whose sole object is to get the rent. These remarks apply particularly in the Dunston Area.

Then again there are those agents who have to obtain the owners' sanction before the necessary repairs can be carried out. This arrangement, of course, means delay; especially so, as in some cases where the owners are at considerable distances; or, as we have occasionally met with, where the owners are abroad.

Our usual method in dealing with properties under the Housing Acts is first of all to make the inspection, send a copy of the detailed report to the owner or agent, requesting his early attention to our requirements, and suggest an interview at the office or at the property.

Failing an amicable arrangement, the matter is reported to the Sanitary Committee requesting that the Law be brought into force under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(4) The whole District is supplied with a pure and constant water supply.

There is undoubtedly a large number of people in the district who are only too anxious to better their housing conditions;

but, owing to the continued depression in trade and subsequent number of unemployed, their hopes for the present are being held up.

With regard to refuse disposal, a marked improvement was effected at our proposal some time ago when the Council ordered the ash closets in the District to be emptied twice weekly, instead of once a week as previously.

(4) Unhealthy Areas.

No complaints have been received, nor any representations made during the year with regard to the above.

At the same time, as the Housing Schemes in the District progress and the Housing shortage becomes less acute, I would point out one or two areas which should then be dealt with:—

(1) Drury Buildings Area, Dunston.

(2) Chapel Street, Dunston.

(3) The area between Whickham Bank and Quality Row, Swalwell.

A very important matter which appears generally to have been overlooked in the past—and to which I draw special attention—is the large number of unpaved and unfinished streets in the District.

I do think it is high time—nay the time is long overdue—from a health point of view, that the Council very seriously, then very energetically, should take this matter in hand.

(5) I understand the existing Byelaws are at present being revised. There is no doubt that those relating to Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc., require to be tightened up.

I would draw special attention to the absolute need of Byelaws being required in this District regarding the manufacture, storage, and sale of ice cream. I would suggest Byelaws on the lines of the London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1902, Sec. 42 and 43.

Housing Statistics for the year 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	157
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:—	
(i) By the Local Authority 	—
(ii) By other bodies or persons 	135

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 	344
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulation, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, 	138
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 	1
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 	59

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 	58
---	----

3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... | 2 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:— | |
| (a) by owners | 2 |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | nil. |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close | nil. |

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 272 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:— | |
| (a) by owners | 66 |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | nil. |

C—Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... | 1 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... | 1 |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ... | 3 |

(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	nil.
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	16

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

We have no producers of Graded Milk in this district.

(1) ACTION TAKEN AS TO TUBERCULOUS MILK AND TUBERCULOUS CATTLE.

The attention of the County Council's Veterinary Inspector is drawn to all suspected cases of Tuberculosis in milking cows. He deals promptly with cases; and, if he certifies the animal to be so suffering it is slaughtered, and the carcass taken to a Knacker's yard for a post-mortem.

The milk from known Tuberculous cattle is destroyed.

(b) Meat.

1. As far as possible the meat exposed for sale, both in the shops and the slaughter houses, is regularly inspected; and any diseased meat is condemned, destroyed by fire, or buried in quick lime.

2. We have no meat stalls, nor meat stores in the district. No meat is allowed to hang exposed for sale outside a shop, and meat in vehicles is amply protected by being covered with clean muslin or other suitable cloths.

3. There are no Public Slaughter Houses in the district, but the following statement shows the number of private Slaughter Houses in use for the past five years:-

In 1920,	In January, 1925,	In December, 1925,
Nine.	Eight.	Seven.

There are no Registered Slaughter Houses in the district, all are licensed.

(c) Other Foods.

There are nine Bake-houses in the district. They are regularly supervised, and well maintained.

No cases of food poisoning have occurred in this district.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

During the period under review—from 1920 to 1925—there does not appear to have been more than an average number of cases of Infectious Diseases in the district.

In May, 1925, an epidemic of Smallpox commenced, and the number of infected people increased to the end of the year—the epidemic still continuing.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied gratuitously to all Practitioners in the District.

A supply is always on hand at the Health Department, Wickham, and I have always some in stock at Dunston. Ample use is made of these facilities.

As shown in the table only a few cases of Encephalitis Lethargica have occurred in the District, and at no time has it become epidemic.

By arrangement with the County Council specimens such as swabs from suspected diphtheria, sputum of suspected pulmonary tuberculosis, blood from suspected enteric fever, cerebro-spinal fluid from cases of suspected cerebro-spinal patients may be sent to the College of Medicine, Newcastle-on-

Tyne whence reports are received with great promptitude.

All practitioners can send in this way, and much use is made of the privilege.

Patients suffering from notifiable infectious diseases are removed to Norman's Riding Hospital, and the houses (bed and bedding) are immediately disinfected with the spray and formalderhyde. This does not apply to measles.

No use has been made in this District of the Schick and Dick tests in diphtheria and scarlet fever, or the recently developed artificial methods of immunization against these diseases.

All cases of known smallpox contacts are referred to the Public Vaccinators in the District.

The list of acute notifiable infectious diseases in this District is very complete, and is as follows—

DISEASE				Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	...	...	...	25	23	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	72	55	1
Diphtheria	..	...	...	13	13	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)				—	—	—
Puerperal Fever		...	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	76	—	11
Other diseases generally notifiable:—						
1. Erysipelas	...	...	...	11	—	—
2. Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	1	1	—
3. Malaria	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other diseases notifiable locally:—						
1. Measles	...	...	...	518	—	15
2. German Measles	...	...	...	27	—	—
3. Chickenpox	...	...	...	76	—	—

The number of deaths from Influenza for the year 1925 was six.

There is no provision in this District for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings other than that obtainable at the Gateshead Union Hospital.

The mode of disinfection of premises and articles has already been dealt with.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
10	—	3	1	3	1	2	—	1
15	—	3	1	2	—	3	—	—
20	1	3	—	1	—	2	—	—
25	4	3	1	—	1	4	—	—
35	7	6	—	—	4	3	—	1
45	4	—	1	—	6	—	1	1
55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

No action has been found to be necessary under this section.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

There are two fully trained certified midwives in the District, one living in Dunston and the other in Swalwell.

They are financed by the District Council, and are under the District Nursing Association. They are supervised and inspected by the County Superintendent of Midwives.

There is also a fully trained and certified midwife acting independently at Marley Hill, who also comes under the District Nursing Association.

In addition there is another at Dunston authorised to practice midwifery by virtue of being in practice before the last Act. She is similarly supervised.

The following is the report of Dr. Madge Hopper, the Medical Officer of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the District.

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1925, on the work of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres of the Whickham Urban District Council.

	CHILD WELFARE.			ANTE NATAL.	
	Attendances of Children.		Total Attendances.	Numb'r on the Regis'r	No. of Attendances.
	Under 1 yr.	Over 1 yr.			
Jan. 1 — March 31	393	55	445	12	17
Apr. 1 — June 30	517	89	606	7	6
July 1 — Sept. 30	701	96	797	14	15
Oct. 1 — Dec. 31	515	88	603	6	9
Total	2123	328	2451	39	47

Taking the Centres individually, the average attendance per session during the year was

at Dunston 48.9.
 at Swalwell 30.5.
 at Whickham 13.9.

Regarding the Centres as a whole, the average attendance per session was 31.5.

This is a distinct increase on last year when the average attendance per session was 11.5.

The year 1925 is the first full year that the ante-natal work has been in progress and the results are gratifying.

I remain,
 Yours sincerely,
 Dr. F. Foster, MADGE HOPPER.
 Medical Officer of Health,
 Whickham.

Statement of Glaxo sold, and issued free during the year 1925.

During the year 1925, 5730 lbs. of Glaxo have been sold, and 3474 lbs. have been issued free which makes a total of 9204 lbs. dealt with.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	CASES.			Vision Un-impaired.	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Notified.	Treated.					
		At Home	In Hospital				
	1	1	0	1	0	0	0

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	NUMBER OF		
	Inspections	Written Notices.	Prosecutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	23	—	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	49	—	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers premises)	43	—	—
Total ...	115	—	—

2—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found,	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	14	14	—	—
Want of Ventilation	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	3	3	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation {	insufficient	1	—	—
	unsuitable or defective	—	—	—
	not separate for sexes	1	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory & Workshop Act:</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factory and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921)				
Total ...	20	18	—	—

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, Section 108.

NATURE OF WORK.	Instances	Notices served.	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel—			
Making, etc., ...			
Cleaning and washing ...			
Household linen ...			
Lace lace curtains and nets ...			
Curtains and furniture hangings ...			
Furniture and upholstery ...			
Electro-plate ...			
File making ...			
Brass and brass articles ...			
Fur pulling ...			
Cables and chains ...			
Anchors and Grapnels ...			
Cart gear ...			
Locks, latches and keys ...			
Umbrellas, &c. ...			
Artificial flowers ...	nil.	nil.	nil.
Nets, other than wire nets ...			
Tents ...			
Sacks ...			
Racquet and tennis balls ...			
Paper, etc., boxes, paper bags ...			
Brush making ...			
Pea making ...			
Feather sorting ...			
Carding, &c., of buttons, &c. ...			
Stuffed toys ...			
Basket making ...			
Chocolates and sweetmeats ...			
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, ...			
Christmas stockings, etc. ...			
Textile weaving ...			
Total ...	nil.	nil.	nil.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

FRANCIS T. FOSTER, M.O.H.

